urging the developed countries and multiiateral institutions to redeem this pledge. UNESCO, as the coordinator of the EFA movement, has been attempting to highhght the issue of adequate resources in various fora, including the High Level Group for EFA.

Primary Schools in Rajasthan

1139. DR. ABRAR AHMED : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages in Rajasthan which are without Primary and Upper Primary School facilities, as on date; and

(b) the nature of assistance provided by the Central Government to the State Government, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) and (b) As per information furnished by Government of Rajasthan, out of a total of 36903 villages/habitations in Rajasthan, 3573 habitations/villages are without primary/upper primary school facilities. The Central Government is providing financial assistance for opening new primary/upper primary schools through the various Centrally Sponsored Schemes of District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), Lok Jumbish Project, Shiksha Karmi Project and Janshala Programme. Based on the approval of District Elementary Education Plans, funds are being also provided under the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), which also includes the Education Guarantee Scheme and Alternative & Innovative Education to fill in the existing gaps in access facilities.

Standard of University Education

1140. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to improve the standard of university education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the steps taken in the field of higher education, according to the Birla-Ambani report;

(d) whether Government would change the existing norms in the appointment of university teachers, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Orignal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT {DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (e) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, a number of steps have been taken by the Commission to improve the standards of university education in the country. These include framing of regulations regarding minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers in universities and colleges, conduct of National Eligibility Test for appointment of teachers, emphasis on accreditation of the educational institutions by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), conferment of autonomous status to colleges, performance linked funding to the universities and conferring the status of universities with potential for excellence to certain selected universities. Besides above, the UGC also has a proposal to start certain schemes like identifying and funding of Colleges of Excellence; networking of universities and colleges; provision of computers to all the colleges, etc. There is, however, no move by the UGC to change the existing norms in the appointment of university teachers.

Grants to Madarsas

†ll4I. SHRI RAM JETHMALANl:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madarsas run by minorities in various States, are being provided with grants from Government;

(b) if so, the amount of money provided to these Madarsas as grant during 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 20DU2002 respectively; and

(c) the number of these Madarsas, State-wise, and the names of States wherein these Madarsas are being run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes. Sir. Under the Scheme of fmancial asistance for modernization of Madarsa education 100% financial assistance is given to State Governments for voluntary organizations/ societies/trusts which are registered under Central or State Government Acts or Wakf Boards.

(b) The amount of money provided to these Madarsas as grant during last ftmr years is as follows:

†Orignal notice of the question was received in Hindi.